

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES  
NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner  
Jeff Regnart, Director*



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**SUBDISTRICTS 4-6 COMMERCIAL SALMON OPENINGS AND SCHEDULE SET**

Escapements of silver salmon into the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet River drainages are projected to be sufficient to reach escapement goals and provide for inriver subsistence harvests of silver salmon. Silver salmon passage through August 7 at North River tower is 1,854 silvers and projected escapement to North River based on normal run-timing models is expected to exceed 6,000 silvers. Tower count assessments also indicate that upper end of the aerial survey SEG range of 550-1,100 silvers is expected to be met. Unalakleet River drainagewide estimated escapement is expected to range from 40,000-75,000 silvers. Apportioned sonar counts from the Shaktoolik River sonar project operated by NSEDC result in a current escapement estimate of 2,600 silvers. Silver salmon escapement to Norton Bay as indexed by Inglutalik River tower is 522 silvers, which is slightly ahead of the 519 silvers counted by this date last year. The nearby Ungalik River is the major producer of silver salmon in Norton Bay and had an aerial survey count of 1,850 silvers in 2011. Subsistence users from Koyuk report good catches of silvers in the lower reach of the Ungalik River this season.

Continued commercial fishing directed at silver salmon is warranted in southern Norton Sound based on sufficient escapements and improved commercial catch rates. Accordingly, Norton Sound Subdistrict 4, the Norton Bay Subdistrict, will reopen for one 72-hour period from 6:00 p.m. Saturday, August 11 to 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 14. Additionally, Norton Sound Subdistricts 5 and 6, the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts will reopen for one 48-hour period from 6:00 p.m. Thursday, August 9 to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, August 11. Effective 6:00 p.m. Sunday, August 12, Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts will reopen to a commercial fishing schedule of two 48-hour periods per week. Norton Bay Subdistrict will also reopen to a commercial salmon fishing schedule of two 48-hour periods per week effective 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 15. Periods will be from 6:00 p.m. Sundays to 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays and from 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays to 6:00 p.m. Fridays until the regulatory closure to the season at 6:00 p.m. Friday, September 7. Permit holders in Subdistricts 4-6 are limited to 100 fathoms of net and set gillnets must have a stretched mesh size of 6 inches or less. These openings and directed silver salmon fishing schedule will provide flexibility for the buyer and fishermen to utilize silver salmon surpluses for the remainder of the season.

Good Luck and Good Fishing.